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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSIONNG 06-007  
600 Market Street W.  
Huron, SD 57350-1500  
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September 1, 2006

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

DATE SEP 01 2006

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Gas Transportation Tariff Change - Fuel Retention Percentage

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed are an original and ten copies of 11<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NorthWestern's filed Natural Gas Tariff. This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31.

The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 2006 is 1.44%. This is an increase of 0.84% from the currently effective retention percentage of 0.60%. The retention percentages effective October 1, 2003 and 2004 were 0.89% and 2.21%, respectively. Exhibit A, attached, shows the computation of the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the twelve month period ending July 31, 2006.

NorthWestern asks that the proposed retention percentage be approved to be effective October 1, 2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff J. Decker".

Jeff J. Decker

enclosure

SOUTH DAKOTA GAS RATE SCHEDULE

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
HURON  
SOUTH DAKOTA

Section No. 5  
Sheet No. 6.2  
11<sup>th</sup> Revised  
Canceling 10<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2

CLASS OF SERVICE: Gas Transportation Tariffs  
RATE DESIGNATION: General Terms and Conditions

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(Con't)

6. **Liability:**

- (a) General - Gas shall be and shall remain the property of the Customer while being transported and delivered by the Company. The Company shall not be liable to the Customer for any loss arising from or out of Gas Transportation Service while in the Company's system or for any other cause, except for gross or willful negligence of the Company's own employees. The Company reserves the right to commingle gas of the Customer with other gas supplies including propane and liquefied natural gas.
- (b) Insurance - The Customer shall be responsible for determining the extent of and maintaining all insurance it deems necessary to protect its property interest in such gas before, during, and after receipt by the Company.

7. **Retention:** A Customer or Group Customer, if applicable, shall have the option to choose one of the following methods to apply retention:

Option One (Indexed Based): The value of retention shall be determined by multiplying i) the monthly average price plus applicable interstate pipeline transportation charges as reported in the BTU's Daily Gas Wire Index for each pipeline (NNG: MidContinent Pooling Point) times ii) the Retention percentage times iii) the Deliveries. This value shall be billed monthly. This billing shall represent compensation for Lost and Unaccounted for Gas. The Retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system is 1.44% and will be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. Retention amounts collected under this option will be credited to expense in PGA true-up filings. If the Customer, or Group Customer, does not select one of the options presented in this retention section, retention shall be calculated as stated in this paragraph.

Option Two (Inkind): The Customer, or Group Customer, if applicable, upon written request, may deliver retention quantities inkind. The request shall include the Customer's account number and the meter number of which inkind retention is being requested and shall be delivered to the Company's representative. Upon the Company's acknowledgment of the receipt of the request, the Customer shall be allowed to deliver retention volumes inkind. The Customer shall have the option to have the quantity of transportation gas received from the transporting pipeline reduced, upon delivery to the Customer, by a fixed percentage of 1.44% (to be adjusted as set forth above), which shall represent compensation for Company-Used Gas and Lost and Unaccounted For Gas. Where fuel reimbursement is inkind, the standard fuel calculation mechanism, as this is related to the nominating process, should be  $(1 - (\text{fuel \%}/100))$  multiplied by receipt quantity = delivery quantity.

Date Filed: September 1, 2006

Effective Date: October 1, 2006

Michael J. Hanson

Issued By: President & CEO

# NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE

Gas Balancing Statement

Twelve Months Ended July 31, 2006

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UTILITIES COMMISSION

## South Dakota MMBtu

Description	9 Mos. Ended 9/30/2005	3 Mos. Ended 12/31/2005	Year Ended 12/31/2005	7 Mos. Ended 7/31/2006	7 Mos. Ended 7/31/2005	12 Mos. Ended 7/31/2006
Gas Sources						
Purchases	3,002,789	1,801,280	4,804,069	2,474,633	2,809,746	4,468,956
Rate 86 Purchases	0	46,130	46,130	232,458	0	278,588
Transportation Receipts	2,699,979	794,579	3,494,558	1,724,019	2,248,642	2,969,935
Propane Peaking	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Sources	<u>5,702,768</u>	<u>2,641,989</u>	<u>8,344,757</u>	<u>4,431,110</u>	<u>5,058,388</u>	<u>7,717,479</u>
Gas Uses						
Sales	3,584,033	1,200,142	4,784,175	3,255,988	3,418,622	4,621,541
Transportation Deliveries	2,640,309	789,812	3,430,121	1,713,675	2,198,947	2,944,849
Company Use	18,472	6,223	24,695	24,899	9,738	39,856
Total Uses	<u>6,242,814</u>	<u>1,996,177</u>	<u>8,238,991</u>	<u>4,994,562</u>	<u>5,627,307</u>	<u>7,606,246</u>
Lost & Unaccounted For	<u>(540,046)</u>	<u>645,812</u>	<u>105,766</u>	<u>(563,452)</u>	<u>(568,919)</u>	<u>111,233</u>
L&U Retention Percentage	<u>2.21%</u>	<u>0.60%</u>		<u>0.60%</u>	<u>2.21%</u>	<u>1.44%</u>

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